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CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Claims 1-8 are currently pending in the application.

Please cancel claims 1-8 as shown below without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of the present invention.

Please add new claims 9-28 as shown below.

The following listing of claims 1-28 will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A wireless network, comprising:
a radio network controller; and
a terminal,

wherein said radio network controller is operable to transmit a first message to said terminal, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change, and

wherein said terminal is operable to transmit a second message to said radio network controller subsequent to a reception of the first message by said terminal, the second message being coded with a new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by said terminal.

10. (New) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein the first message includes the new cipher key.

11. (New) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein said radio network controller is operable to transmit a third message to said terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a deciphering by said radio network controller of the second message with the new cipher key.

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12. (New) The wireless network of claim 11, wherein the third message is coded with the new cipher key as an indication that said radio network controller deciphered the second message with the new cipher key.

13. (New) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein said radio network controller includes means for verifying a use of the new cipher key by said terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller.

14. (New) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein said radio network controller and said terminal include means for synchronizing a conversion from an old key to the new key.

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15. (New) The wireless network of claim 9, wherein said radio network controller is operable to transmit a third message to said terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a failure by said radio network controller to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.

16. (New) The wireless network of claim 15, wherein the third message is coded with an old cipher key as an indication that said radio network controller failed to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.

17. (New) A radio network controller, comprising:
means for transmitting a first message to a terminal, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change; and
means for receiving a second message from the terminal subsequent to a reception of the first message by the terminal, the second message being coded with a new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by the terminal.

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18. (New) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein the first message includes the new cipher key.
19. (New) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein said radio network controller further includes means for transmitting a third message to the terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a deciphering by said radio network controller of the second message with the new cipher key.
20. (New) The radio network controller of claim 19, wherein the third message is coded with the new cipher key as an indication that said radio network controller deciphered the second message with the new cipher key.
21. (New) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein said radio network controller further includes means for verifying a use of the new cipher key by said terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller.
22. (New) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein said radio network controller includes means for synchronizing a conversion from an old key to the new key.
23. (New) The radio network controller of claim 17, wherein said radio network controller further includes means for transmitting a third message to the terminal subsequent to a reception of the second message by said radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a failure by said radio network controller to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.

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24. (New) The radio controller network of claim 23, wherein the third message is coded with the old cipher key as an indication that said radio network controller failed to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.

25. (New) A terminal, comprising:

means for receiving a first message from a radio network controller, the first message being indicative of an initiation of a cipher key change; and

means for transmitting a second message to the radio network controller subsequent to a reception of the first message by the terminal, the second message being coded with a new cipher key as an acknowledgement of the cipher key change by the terminal

26. (New) The terminal of claim 25, wherein said terminal further includes means for receiving a third message from the radio network controller subsequent to a reception of the second message by the radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a deciphering by the radio network controller of the second message with the new cipher key.

27. (New) The terminal of claim 25, wherein said terminal includes means for synchronizing a conversion from an old key to the new key.

28. (New) The terminal of claim 25, wherein said terminal further includes means for receiving a third message from the radio network controller subsequent to a reception of the second message by the radio network controller, the third message being indicative of a failure by the radio network controller to decipher the second message with the new cipher key.